UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Sitcha Richard, (A95 461 653) Case No. 04-CV-300090-MAP V. Frederick MacDonald, High Sheriff, Franklin County House of Corrections; Tom Ridge, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security; Michael Garcia, Assistant Secretary (Designee), Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); Eduardo Aguire, Acting Director, Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services("CIS"); Bruce Chadbourne, Interim Director, ICE, Boston, Respondents

AFFIDAVIT

- I, Sitcha Richard am the above named Petitioner and I did not deliberately fail to file an appeal of the Board of Immigration Appeals decision with the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.
- 2. I, Sitcha Richard was Pro Se as of February 10, 2004, when I indicated to the BIA I no longer would be represented by my prior attorney. I believe that this attorney was not zealously representing my interests and not informing me of what was occurring with regard to my case. See Exhibit A

- 3. The prior attorney failed to supply me with the prior decisions from the September 18, 2003 hearing. In addition, I never received three of the five separate decisions issued by the court until after the March 25, 2004 deadline and this caused me additional confusion.
- 4. I was Pro Se on February 25, 2004 through March 25, 2004 when the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) decision was issued. I did not file an appeal of the BIA's Decision because I was not familiar with the complex jurisdictional rules that govern the judicial review process requiring appeal of the BIA decision to the Circuit Court of Appeals. I did not speak with an attorney during this period of time from February 25, 2004 through March 25, 2004. I did not understand my rights to appeal the BIA decision to the Circuit Court of Appeals.
- 5. I am fluent in my official language of French. I am not fluent in English and have difficulty understanding many English words. Based upon my difficulty with the english language I did not understand the requirements to appeal the BIA decision to the Circuit Court of Appeals.
- 6. On February 2, 2004, I was assaulted by my cellmate while I was custody at the Osborne Correctional Facility in Connecticut. I was placed in an isolational cell for two days while I was under suicide watch. This assault left me physically and psychologically fragile. This injury lasted for several months causing me to suffer mentally, physically and caused me not to be in the right state of mind. I was not in the right state of mind to understand the consequences of not appealing to the Circuit Court of Appeals. (See Exhibit 2, Medical Records from Osborne Correctional Facility)

7. For these reasons I was unable to file an appeal with the Circuit Court.

Signed under the pains and penalties of perjury this 5th day of November 2004.

Sitcha Richard

EXHIBIT 1

DISTRICT OF CONNECTICAL

LA THE MATTER

LASE | Nº ASS-461-653.

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EXHIBIT 2

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